



LENT — WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

Easter is the only major holiday that changes day and date every year -- between March 22 and April 25 -- depending on the full moon. Likewise then the season of Lent varies over a five week range. Lent could begin as early as Feb. 2 but this year Ash Wednesday is Feb. 10.

Christians and their various churches have different ways of observing these 40 days -- special worship services, giving up something like chocolate or TV, taking extra offerings or service projects. Any or all of these can be helpful but they can also be useless if they make no lasting difference.

It is very important that we "do" Lent in a way that makes a difference in May, in August, December and all the way to the next Ash Wednesday.


Here are some changes that can make a lasting difference:

- Extra time in prayer – alone – in family – with others. Prayer that really engages a living God.
- Serious time spent in study of the Holy Scriptures. The kind of study that discovers the depth of God's love.
- Worship that really encounters a LIVING God and lets God make a difference where we live.
- Actions of service and ministry to people in need-- the sick, the lonely or depressed, the poor and homeless. the persecuted and the Christ-less.

Bad difference happens – good difference is planned MADE with the help of others and with the loving Holy Spirit.

May we all this year DO a Lent that makes a significant difference.

Pastor Ron



PASTOR RON: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday –
9am to 12:30pm and Saturdays by appointment.

PASTOR ALLEN: Monday & Friday -
9 am to 12:30



ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

Greetings in the Name of Jesus SVLC!

Congratulations on 36 years of doing the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are a place of forgiveness and refuge for sinners through Word and Sacrament ministry.

As some of you know, SVLC was my foundation, the first place where I was shown the love of Jesus, heard His Word, and empowered to live His love through my words and actions in the world around me. Without SVLC, I would not be the person, pastor, husband or father that I am. I know Jesus better because of you. (Huge thanks to Ron and Ruby Kraft, Mary (& Les) Reese, AnnaMarie (& Henry) Ontiveros, Marge Clark, the Wilson's, and the Adell's.)

As you continue in Christ's service, may you be empowered by the love of Jesus that others may know forgiveness in Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Roger Stites, Faith Lutheran Church, Sequim, WA



NEED A "FAITH" LIFT? COME TO A CURSILLO WEEKEND!

**NEXT LUTHERAN CURSILLO WEEKENDS
February 18-21, 2016 for Men and February 25-28, 2016 for Women**

Cursillo is an organization serving the Lutheran churches of Southern California to develop leaders in the Lutheran church through training and spiritual renewal. There is no cost to you to attend a weekend but you must be a baptized member in good standing at a Lutheran church. You will be paired with a sponsor who has been through a Cursillo weekend and have your pastor endorse your reservation request. We recommend praying about it first, then talk to your pastor or others who have attended Cursillo (Pr. Deinert, Larry & Marlene Alexander, Bob & Carole Johansen, Helen Bedford, Marge Clark, Steve & Marcia Jackson, Eunice Kang, Vicky McKay-Cannon, Janet Riccardi and Laurie White) about what you may be able to gain from attending a Cursillo weekend before applying. Check their website for more information: www.lcsocal.org.

Time is running out to join the February weekends so apply soon. Next weekends will be in July, 2016.



**Book Sale & Valentine Bake Sale
Saturday, Feb. 13th - 8 am to 2 pm**

We are accepting your donations of books, baked goods, games, jigsaw puzzles, cd's, DVD's and white elephant items (not rummage, please), etc. for the sale. Bring any donations to the church on Sundays or to the office during the week since we have a place to store donations.

Bring baked goods to the office or hall on Friday, Feb. 12th before 6 pm or bring them the day of the sale before 9 am.

Please sign up in the church entryway if you can help set-up, work the fair and disassemble when the fair is over. There's plenty of work to go around! Items left over from the sale will be available on Sunday after services.

All monies raised will go to Shepherd's Social Ministry Assistance Fund.

For more information call Terry Mack at 951-924-8210

Don't forget to come and shop on the 13th!!



Love is in the Air - Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at SVLS.

It's time to start thinking about next school year already. Beginning February 1st is pre-registration for the next school year for our school families. All those who pre-register in February get 50% off the registration which is a \$55 savings. On March 5th registration will be open to the public.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here from February 29 through March 4. The items at the Book Fair make great gifts for children of all ages so come and check it out.

On Saturday, March 5th from 11 am to 2 pm we'll have our annual Open House so be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors who have children ages 2 (fully potty trained) through Kindergarten to come and visit our school and have some fun. We're offering 50% off paid registration on that day. We would love to have all our classes full for next year.

We also will be in need of a couple new teachers/aids. Applicants must have 12 core ECE units. See me if you have any questions about employment opportunities for next year.

A BIG thank you to all of those who participated in the "Apple Tree" donations for the classes. Your generous gifts are very appreciated. Please continue to pray for our school and church.

In His Service, Linda Williamson, Director



Lovefest will take place on February 13th at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arcadia. If you have not registered, and would like to attend, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 to check on availability.

Unapologetic Column 32

No More Blind Faith!

There's a college ministry that I am a huge fan of. It's called Ratio Christi (that's Latin for "The Reason of Christ"). It will probably come as no shock to you that their focus is on teaching college age students to defend the faith. One of the tee shirts this ministry has is a solid red shirt with white lettering laid out in the patten of an eye chart. The letters on the eye chart spell out "No more blind faith," with the tag line "Know why you believe." I really want this shirt, but unfortunately am beyond the age that would allow me to pass myself off as even remotely young enough to be in college!

I've stated here before that I try as often as I can not to use the word "faith" when talking about Christianity. The reason being that the word faith has subtly shifted meaning in recent years. The word faith, especially when used in conversations about Christianity, has come to be interpreted as what Greg Koukl refers to as "religious wishful thinking." On top of that, people subconsciously add it behind words like "blind" or "leap of." Biblical faith is a trust in the evidence given to us in the Bible. It's not believing without evidence, as some sceptics claim, it's trusting in the evidence given.

I often hear people claim there is no historical or archeological evidence to support the Bible. This is a claim often made by skeptics, but also by Christians as well. I usually try to be gracious in these situations. Some people simply may not know how strongly archeology supports the Bible. But in most of these conversations, something odd happens.

I like to think that people are generally happy when the beliefs they hold dear are confirmed in some form. But quite often, after I tell someone of the wealth of evidence for the Bible, I'm met with something close to hostility. Again, these are Christians, not skeptics. Why would people bristle at evidence that supports their own view? I think there are a few reasons. In the coming months, I'll explore each of these points further.

They don't know the facts

As I said, many people don't know how much evidence there is to support the history recounted in the Bible. I'll give you some of the amazing finds that verify the accounts listed in both the New and Old Testaments, and give you resources so you can do your own research.

They don't think they have time to learn.

Let's face it. We're all busy, including me. With a busy schedule, how can we be expected to devote more time to study and reading? I'll give you some practical tips on ways to find time to use for study.

People have been taught that blind faith is superior to informed faith.

There is a sense that believing without evidence is sincerer than believing with evidence. I often hear the phrase "just have faith." People will often reference Jesus' statement to Thomas "because you have seen, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn 20:29). I could be wrong, but I don't think Jesus is advocating for blind faith in this passage.

If the history is true, then maybe God's commands are true.

It may be that people reject the historicity of the Bible because it gives them license to ignore the Biblical commands for how we should live. While I deal mainly in intellectual objections to the Bible, I realize there are emotional reasons to reject it as well. If someone is convinced that the Bible is not historical, then they could feel freer to dismiss its teachings on morality as well.

History and archeology are great tools to have handy when defending the Bible and presenting the Gospel. While it may not prove the miracles or the supernatural events in the Bible actually took place, it does go to show that the history is reliable. Once you establish that the Biblical authors are accurately relaying their history, you can begin making the case that the Gospel message is part of that history, and worthy of serious consideration. Have a blessed day, and I'll see you next month!

Yours in Christ, Drew Covert



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN and the Pacific Southwest District LWML are sponsoring "Undie Sunday" again. You can help by bringing a package of NEW underwear or socks for men, women, boys or girls - all sizes are needed for the many destitute people in our midst. 100% cotton is the most useful kind. Bring them to church by Sunday, Feb. 14th. Drop them off in the container in the church lobby. Monetary donations to Orphan Grain Train are also appreciated to help with transportation costs.



FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE:

We have finalized a list of three prospective pastors for the congregation to consider. The names will be posted in the church lobby and all congregation members will receive a mailer with information on those candidates.

We have scheduled a Call Meeting for Sunday, February 21st at 2 pm in the sanctuary to choose a pastor from this group to call.

Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in this process.

Dennis Paulsen, Call Committee Chair

For those of us that have jobs that have us sit most of the day, I will give you three exercises you can do several times a day. Over a short period of time you will become more flexible, start losing weight and sleep better at night.

1. Using a chair such as a dining room chair, slowly stand up, reach your hands above your head, tuck your bottom and return to the seat. Start with 10 reps and slowly increase.
2. While seated, start with feet on the floor. Slowly raise your legs out in front of you and bring them back. Again, start with 10 reps.
3. Do standing push ups - stand with hands firmly holding a counter or table, with straight back slowly bend forward and contract your tummy. Do 10 reps.



I invite everyone to stop by the fellowship hall on Thursdays at 10:30 am and I will go through more routines you can do. Or better yet, stop by at 9:30 am and join us for Tai Chi!

Blessings. Suzy Langhorne, Parish Health Minister



SOMEONE HAS SAID that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless.

During WWII there was an adviser to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace.

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate, Every evening at 6:00 PM (Pacific), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States and for a return to a Godly nation.

If you know anyone else who would like to participate, please pass this along. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have. Please share with your praying friends.



If you need to change your schedule, or have any questions on how to run the system, please contact Drew Covert at 951-525-8111 or lcms-drew@roadrunner.com. Thank you all for your service to our Church and our Lord!

First Service:

- Feb. 7
- Feb. 14 Josh Hamann
- Feb. 21 Mike Olson
- Feb. 28 Bud Kenefick
- Mar. 6 Gerry Klepps
- Mar. 13 Josh Hamann
- Mar. 20 Mike Olson
- Mar. 27 Bud Kenefick

Second Service:

- Jim Wilson
- Abby Covert
- Marvin Niles
- Drew Covert
- Marvin Niles
- Drew Covert
- Abby Covert
- Jim Wilson



BEST OF IRELAND TOUR

11 DAYS: June 14-24, 2016

\$3649 Roundtrip from Los Angeles

(Air/land tour price is \$3059 plus \$590 govt. taxes & airline surcharges)

Hosted by Marge Clark

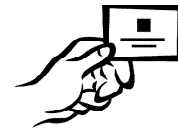
TOUR INCLUDES: Roundtrip Air from LA, First Class/Select Hotels, Most Meals, Professional Driver/Guide & Comprehensive Sightseeing

Visit Waterford, Killarney, Galway, Connemara, Sligo and Dublin

For a brochure & more information contact Marge at:

Tel: (951) 924-4688 Email: svlc@juno.com

All are welcome to join us!



INVITE OTHERS TO OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

Business cards are available in packets of 10 in a basket in the church lobby. Take a pack and pass them out to friends and neighbors who need a church home or a preschool for their children.

NEEDED FOR NURSING HOMES: Magazines and greeting card fronts. Bring to the church or office.

2016 FLOWER CHART

If you'd like to donate flowers for the altar, sign up on the board hanging in the church lobby. Indicate what the flowers are for - anniversary, birthday, in honor of or in memory. Take a slip with ordering instructions. Flowers are ordered by you from Bradley's Florist (242-1519) and they deliver them to church. Each large bouquet is \$26. Small bouquets for the altar are \$19 each. Questions? Call the office.



Joseph Project - Community (Citywide) food Bank

Shepherd is working with other churches in Moreno Valley with this community food bank that provides food for the needy every Thursday from a distribution center at the Koinonia Evangelistic Center, 21866 Brill Rd., Moreno Valley (951-867-3050). Volunteers are needed to help out with distribution, sorting, clean up, etc. at the center. Contributions to the Joseph Project will be gratefully accepted through Shepherd. Please pray for this ministry and volunteer your time and talents! Contact Larry Alexander for more information.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Your pastors, your lay ministers and the church office want to know when someone is hospitalized or home bound. There have been instances of not finding out for several days. We would rather hear from several sources than none at all so, PLEASE – PLEASE pick up the phone or e-mail us whenever there is an opportunity for ministry to members or to family or friends.



**Thursdays at 9:30 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
Presented by Suzy Langhorne
Certified Instructor
FREE! Please join us.**



DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR CAP - Moreno Valley's Community Assistance Program EACH SUNDAY! Thank You!

JOIN IN THE CHALLENGE

Join us in choosing a time (maybe even 10 or 15 minutes) of any day of the week that is best for you individually and lift your silent (or loud) voices to the Lord. Ask for His touch on Shepherd, our Pastors, the members of our congregation, our school, and our community. His promise is clear - if His people gather together in prayer, He will hear our prayers. Let's do it!



SAVE BOX TOPS FOR OUR SCHOOL!



Specially marked box tops are worth \$.10 each when redeemed from Box Tops for Education. Encourage friends & family, near & far to help, too. Thanks for taking the time to help our school.

The sponsors appearing on the back cover of the newsletter help defray the cost of printing the Shepherd's Staff, please give them your consideration when possible.

**Ads
Go
Here**

**Calendar
Goes
Here**



The Shepherd's Staff

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES: Sunday: 8:00 & 10:45 AM

"Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." — Francis of Assisi

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www.shepherdofthevalley.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**RON KRAFT & ALLEN DEINERT, INTERIM PASTORS
LINDA WILLIAMSON, SCHOOL DIRECTOR**



February 2016

Living Lent offers a different experience as we retrace Christ's steps to the cross during this holy season, fully aware that Easter has already come to pass. Each service in this series focuses on a word to consider while living Lent as Easter people. Orders of service highlight the ways in which the passion narratives of Christ take on more significant meaning for us when we see them through the lens of the empty tomb. Each service helps us see that we are always alive in Christ, who died and was raised.

Plan to join us for Ash Wednesday service on February 10th at 7 pm
Midweek Services and Soup Suppers are on Wednesdays, Feb. 17, Feb. 24, Mar. 2, Mar. 9 and Mar. 16.
Services are at 4 pm & 7 pm with Soup Suppers served at 5 pm between the services.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday - March 20 with services at 8 & 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday Service - Mar. 24 at 7 pm

Good Friday Service - Mar. 25 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday Services - March 27

Sunrise Service at 6 am

Festival Communion Services at 8 & 10:45 am

We welcome you to join us for any or all of the Lent and Easter events.
Call the church office at 951-924-4688 for more information.

February 2016

Sunday Worship: 8 AM and 10:45 AM - Communion: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	2 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 6:00 PM School Board (O)	3	4 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 11:00 AM Grace Korean Bible Study (O) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H)	5 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	6 8:30 AM Cursillo Grouping @ Panera Bread 8:30 AM Cursillo Training 10:00 AM Terri Scott-Talley Memorial (S)
7 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H)	8 9:00 AM Women's Koffee Klatch @ Brandon's 6:00 PM School Staff (O) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	9 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM Lay Ministers (H)	10 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S)	11 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 11:00 AM Grace Korean Bible Study (O)	12 1:00 PM Book Fair Set Up (H) School Closed - President's Weekend	13 8:00 AM - 2 PM Book Fair & Bake Sale (H) 9:00 AM Knights of the Holy Spirit TLC (O)
14 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y) BP Screening between Services	15 10:00 AM First Place TLC (H) 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S) School Closed - President's Weekend	16 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7:00 PM M & M Board (O)	17 4:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 7:00 PM Midweek Service (S)	18 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 6:30 PM Grace Korean Service (S) 7:00 PM Life of Christ Bible Study (H) 7:01 PM Men's Cursillo Weekend Starts	19 10:00 AM School Chapel (S) 1:00 PM - 6 PM LifeStream Blood Drive (Blood Mobile)	20 9:00 AM Quilting for LWR (H)
21 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 2:00 PM Call Meeting (S) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y)	22 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	23 5:45 PM Chancel Choir (S)	24 4:00 PM Midweek Lent Service (S) 5:00 PM Soup Supper (H) 7:00 PM Midweek Service (S)	25 8:00 AM BrailleMail(H) 9:30 AM Tai Chi (H) 7:00 PM Women's Cursillo Weekend Starts	26 10:00 AM School Chapel (S)	27 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Brandon's 10:00 AM Anita Niles Memorial (S-H)
28 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class (O-H-PS) 12:30 PM Grace Korean (S-H) 5:00 PM Confirmation (O) 6:30 PM Jr/Sr Hi Youth (Y) BP Screening between Services	29 7:00 PM MV Chorale Rehearsal (S)	LifeStream BLOOD DRIVE and Marrow Screening at Shepherd! Friday, Feb. 19 from 1 to 6 pm. Call the church office for an appointment today!				